

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 08724 271129Z

15 L
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

DRC-01 PRS-01 /091 W
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O 271050Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6286
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8724

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK
SUBJECT: PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 8698

SUMMARY: THIS A LONGER-THAN-IT-SHOULD-BE CABLE BECAUSE I WANT TO CONVEY, ESPECIALLY FOR HANK BYROADE, SOME OF THE FLAVOR OF PAK AMBASSADOR ISPAHANI. THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS IN MY DECEMBER 27 TALK WITH HIM WERE (A) MUMTAZ ALI BHUTTO IS NOT ABOUT TO VISIT KABUL AND (B) ISPAHANI HAS RECOMMENDED THAT TEN TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND AFGHAN NOMADS BE ALLOWED INTO PAKISTAN THIS SEASON.

1. PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR ISPAHANI MADE HIS RETURN PROTOCOLARY CALL ON ME DECEMBER 27 AND BENT MY EAR AT LENGTH ON PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT AT TIME OF MAIWANDWAL COUP ATTEMPT, TEMPERATURE OF RELATIONSHIP FELL TO ZERO, SUBSEQUENTLY ROSE TO ABOUT 70 BUT, IN WAKE OF BHUTTO'S TOUR OF NWFP HAD GONE DOWN TO 25. AFGHAN OFFICIALS REFUSE ISPAHANI'S SOCIAL INVITATIONS, AND HIS REQUESTS
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FOR COURTESY CALLS ON TOP AFGHAN OFFICIALS HAVE GONE UNANSWERED.

2. REGARDING ABORTED VISIT OF MUMTAZ ALI BHUTTO, ISPAHANI SAID AFGHAN FONMIN OFFICIAL A WEEK OR TWO AGO HAD COMPLAINED THAT AFGHANISTAN HAD NOT RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, IN CONTRAST TO OTHER MOSLEM COUNTRIES WHICH HAD BEEN INVITED BY SPECIAL ENVOYS. WHEN THIS WAS REPORTED BY ISPAHANI, GOP ASKED HIM TO INQUIRE IF GOA WOULD RECEIVE M.A. BHUTTO AS CONVEYER OF THE INVITATION. ISPAHANI HAD A SUBORDINATE OFFICIAL OF HIS EMBASSY MAKE THIS INQUIRY AS THE ORIGINAL AFGHAN COMPLAINT CAME FROM A SUBORDINATE LEVEL OF THE FONMIN. AFGHAN RESPONSE WAS, AS WAHID ABDULLAH TOLD ME YESTERDAY, GOA REQUIRED NO INVITATION. ISPAHANI THEREUPON RECOMMENDED TO ISLAMABAD THAT M.A. BHUTTO VISIT BE SCRUBBED, WHICH IT HAS BEEN. AMUSING SIDELIGHT, HOWEVER, BUT NOT FOR ISPAHANI OR ABDULLAH, IS MIXUP WHICH LED PIA TO INFORM BOTH OF THEM M.A. BHUTTO WAS ARRIVING YESTERDAY AND CAUSED ISPAHANI BUT NO AFGHAN OFFICIAL TO MEET THE BHUTTO-LESS AIRPLANE.

3. REGARDING THE TRIBAL MIGRATION, ISPAHANI SAID HE HAS RECOMMENDED TO ISLAMABAD THAT A TOKEN NUMBER, ABOUT TEN OR FIFTEEN THOUSAND, BE ALLOWED INTO PAKISTAN THIS SEASON, BUT THAT IT BE MADE CLEAR TO GOA THAT THIS DOES NOT ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT.

4. ISPAHANI STRUCK ME AS A TOUGH, WILY CHARACTER, AND AS I GET TO KNOW HIM BETTER I UNDERSTAND BETTER WHY BHUTTO WANTS HIM HERE. HE IS ABSOLUTELY RIGID ON THE PUSHTUNISTAN QUESTION ("WHEN THE AFGHANS TELL ME THEIR CLAIM GOES BACK TO 1738, I TELL THEM THE PRESENT BORDER WILL STILL STAND IN 2138"), SAYS HE WILL RESIGN THE DAY HE IS EVER ASKED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH ANY AFGHAN AND WOULD THEN RETURN HOME "AND RAISE HELL", AND TELLS ME HE HAS RECOMMENDED INTENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS RIGHT UP TO THE BORDER INSIDE PAKISTAN.

5. ISPAHANI SAID HE BELIEVES THE DAOUD REGIME'S HARPING ON PUSHTUNISTAN REFLECTS ITS INTERNAL WEAKNESS. HE REFERRED TO DAOUD AS A "TROUBLED" MAN AND COMMENTED THAT HE, ISPAHANI, PERSONALLY HOPES DAOUD STAYS IN CONTROL HERE BECAUSE ANY ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE WORSE AND PROBABLY SOVIET-CONTROLLED. HE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR DAOUD'S INCORRUPTIBILITY. HE DISMISSES WAHID ABDULLAH WITH THE COMMENT THAT HE HAS JUST BEEN PROMOTED FROM SECOND SECRETARY AND DOES ONLY WHAT HE IS TOLD. SO THE ISPAHANI-ABDULLAH SOCIETY IS CONFIDENTIAL

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CERTAINLY MUTUAL.
ELIOT

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